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SIR:—Rev. Robert Patterson, D. D., a Presbyterian clergyman resident in Oakland, in a communication published in the New York Evangelist of August 21, 1873, makes some statements over his own signature which deserve notice, in so far as they relate to the University of California.

However strong may be his preferences for a Presbyterian college, it is obvious that Dr. Patterson is either misinformed or uninformed on the subject which he discusses, for he could not have intentionally departed from the truth.

After an unauthorized declaration that the State University has resigned to the Presbyterian church "the City of San Francisco, and has located itself *away out on the prairie* across the bay, about twelve miles out of town," he adds this sentence. "The State University by its constitution is debarred from religion. At its recent commencement exercises the name of God was not spoken; no prayer was offered; nor was any reference made in any of the young men's speeches to moral or religious ideas. Now, even an atheist does not desire his boy to be trained a materialist."

Allow me to say that the University of California celebrated its recent commencement at Berkeley, July 16, 1873. Its exercises were opened by a prayer offered up by Rev. S. H. Willey, a Presbyterian clergyman of Santa Cruz; two addresses were made by young men, one of them a brief Latin salutatory, which gave but little scope for religious or moral ideas; the other was by a young man of Hebrew origin, a thoughtful comparison of ancient and modern culture; the President of the University in bestowing the degrees, invoked upon the young men, "the blessing of Almighty God," and warned them [against] "dishonesty, selfishness and sloth;" the concluding address was written by Rt. Rev. Bishop Kip, and delivered in his absence by Rev. Dr. Lathrop, Rector of the Church of the Advent, in San Francisco.

A large number of clergymen of various denominations were present, most of whom expressed their satisfaction with the exercises. The Jewish Rabbi, the Rev. Dr. Cohen, placed in my hand a substantial present for the young orator referred to. Two,

at least, of the religious papers of San Francisco, the "Pacific," (Congregational) and the "Pacific Churchman" (Episcopal), referred to the Commencement exercises in terms too cordial to be quoted here. Since Commencement the Trustees of an institution conducted by a third religious denomination have expressed their purpose to give up the idea of a college and to make their establishment "a training school for the State University or any other first-class college in the land." Prominent persons connected with three distinct religious bodies, are seriously purposing to build halls or residences for the students, near to the University grounds. For this purpose the Episcopalians have secured already six acres of land and funds to the amount of \$5,000 or more.

In short, while the University of California is an institution of the State, and is so conducted that neither Protestant, Catholic, nor Jew can claim that it is a "sectarian" or an "ecclesiastical" foundation; it aims to promote the highest development of character. While the State provides buildings and apparatus and intellectual instruction those who desire to secure for young men religious and social culture propose to build up around the University churches and homes. While all such helps are welcomed, when provided by private or by ecclesiastical liberality, the public funds are sacredly kept free from sectarian control.

The criticisms of Rev. Dr. Patterson upon the University of California precede the following: "therefore," with which he concludes. "The Presbyterian Church," he says, "has now before it the golden opportunity of guiding the higher education of the Pacific Coast. Therefore, I do most earnestly beseech the generous-hearted Presbyterians of New York to give Dr. Cunningham a hearing when he visits them in September, in the guise of a man of California, crying, 'Help us!'"

Hoping that "the higher education of the Pacific Coast" will not suffer in the hands of its advocate, I am,
Mr. Editor, Yours Respectfully,

D. C. GILMAN.

[1873]

REPORT

ON THE

WATER SUPPLY

OF THE

University of California.

By

Prof. Frank Soulé, Jr.
[October 1874]



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